

# Northern School Council Meeting (Draft)

November 22, 2022, 6:30 - 8:05 pm (Zoom)

**Attendees:** Andy A, Jen A, Janice B, Natalie B, Omar B, Diane C, Elena C, Abby D, Diana G, Beth L, Tania O, Anna R, Kristina T, Adam Marshall, Jenni Marr

**Regrets:** John B, Jonah J, Everton L, Willem M, Melissa R

**Meeting called to order at 6:35 by Janice B.**

- Welcome
- Land acknowledgement
- Code of Conduct reviewed

**Operational Matters**

- Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve: Diane C.; Seconded: Beth L., Carried.
- Approval of Oct 18, 2022 minutes - Motion to approve: Beth L.; Seconded: Diane C., Carried.

**Co-chair Report – Andy A.**

- Andy attended the lunch that was put on for the teachers on the recent PD day. Talked about funding opportunities with students.
- Co-chairs have received a draft of final school council by-laws (discussed later in the meeting).
- A lot of time has been spent on the school council budget

**Principal's Report – Ask Adam**

- Is TDSB recommending mask wearing? The Board is leaning towards recommending masks just before and just after the winter holiday period (ie covering the period when families may travel for the holidays) but cannot mandate it. Are Covid cleaning practices still in place? They are not to same extent because it is known that Covid is airborne.
- Exams: will there be a designated time for Credit Rescue and Credit Recovery? Credit Rescue was instituted during the pandemic because 10 exam days had already been set aside, and then were not used for exams. This year, it is possible during exams but given the size of the school, unlikely. Credit Recovery is run every year, but it is only helpful when specific units/skills need recovery. Redoing a class in summer school/ another setting may be the better option if a student is struggling in all areas of a class.
- Stress (particularly for Grade 12 students who are looking at university applications) around variables in teacher marking: Challenging to address for subjects that are more subjective. If a student is concerned about marking irregularity, encourage them to bring it forward to administration.
- Weighting for exams: Adam doesn't believe we should be in a system where we are choosing exam weightings, but we are. There is no perfect answer. NSS is building a web page with exam resources.

- Dale Callender: is his work week being reduced at Northern? There will be changes to Dale's schedule in the new year. Dale is an employee of Lumenus, not TDSB, but has space in the building. Adam explained that Lumenus is examining how their resources are distributed, and wishes to try and service more of the Board with their scarce resources (in terms of having Dale go to other locations a couple of days a week). His services are especially valuable in our school, with higher population of students with special educational needs, where anxiety can be more prevalent.
- HEPA filters: are teachers still using them? Yes, they should be. Are filters being changed out on schedule? Adam believes these types of filters do not need annual replacement – will confirm.
- When will exam schedule be released: there are delays on TDSB end. Hopefully they will be announced soon.
- Cleaning and caretaking: are caretakers able to keep on top of work such as toilet doors not locking, toilet paper not being restocked? If students notice this, please inform office. Adam did note that staffing for caretakers is a challenge, TDSB-wide. For example, 30% of the TDSB caretakers left the Board over summer. Northern's standard number of caretakers is eleven.
- Prom date: Friday May 26 - Eglinton Grand
- Commencement date: waiting for response from Convocation Hall at U of T. TBD.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

If you are interested in joining a subcommittee, please visit our [website](#) or email [nss.school.council@gmail.com](mailto:nss.school.council@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer's Report – Abby D.**

The budget was reviewed.

- Received \$14,150 in donations from parents since school started. This is a 7% increase over last year, with 10% more families donating than last year. If families still wish to donate, they are welcome to bring cash or cheque to the office.
- \$28,063 is available in the budget this year, with \$2,000 being held in balance for new year. \$6000 spent to date.
- Request to approve: \$2,500 for Robotics Team, \$1,500 for Girls' Volleyball Team. Motion to approve: Abby D; Seconded: Beth L. Carried.
- Approval of draft budget for 2022/23 being approved as the official budget. Motion to approve: Jen A.; Seconded: Abby D, Carried.

### **Statement of School Needs**

- This review has been moved to the January meeting.

**Academic Resource Committee – Tania O.** We want to highlight several events to support students and parents with learning differences:

- 1) There has been a lot of social contact between parents, for example in the Parent Buddies activities and a pub night in Nov

- 2) Amanda Kearney received support from ARC to put on a pizza lunch for ASD students
- 3) Monthly youth calls with Shift Your Thinking are still happening; next one is November 30 on tech coaching

Visit [nsscouncil.com](http://nsscouncil.com) for more details on all of these and the latest news from ARC!

**Website** – Jen A. and Tania O. asked for feedback on the website and got the following responses:

**Do you visit [nsscouncil.com](http://nsscouncil.com)?**

Yes - 5

No - 8

Sometimes -6

**What is looked at**

- ARC
- dates and details to upcoming events
- general snooping
- minutes, clubs, presentations
- everything
- ask Adam
- up next at Northern

**General Comments**

- rely on weekly emails
- with all the sites I visit on a regular basis, this by far is the most user friendly. Easy to navigate

**Suggestions**

- post agenda to website in advance of meeting

**Overview of Council committees – Andy A.**

Reminder: Any parent can participate! They do not have to be on the school council, and there is no deadline to join a committee. Click [here](#) for overview and descriptions of committees.

Budget committee

GAC – Gifted Advisory committee

ARC – Academic Resource committee

Website committee

Grad committee (ad hoc) – March/April – June

Social committee

Education committee (engages in TDSB consultations)

Safe and caring schools committee (Ms. Peel is school contact) - one parent suggested a mobile crisis team visit (a police officer and nurse) to help encourage dialogue and familiarity with these professions. Adam responded this idea fits best within Grade 9 health curriculum.

**New Business**

School Council By laws: The TDSB has provided a template for schools to adopt in full, or in part, to strengthen their governance. The TDSB has requested submission of NSS School Council's preferred template choices by December 23. Additions comprise:

1. Virtual voting (no proxy or absentee)
2. Meeting protocols
3. Roles and responsibilities of council members
4. Social media account and website
5. Conflict of interest
6. Suspension of school council member
7. Appeal of suspension
8. By-laws amendment

A productive discussion took place, and it was agreed that the Council needed time to look over the proposed template changes, and give their input at the January meeting. Concerns were expressed by some members that the proposed bylaws were unhelpful and that it was problematic that these bylaws were drafted without consultation with Councils and their adoption is mandatory at the January meeting. Non-council parents are allowed to share their input as well; questions or comments can be sent to [nss.school.council@gmail.com](mailto:nss.school.council@gmail.com).

A copy of our current bylaws is [here](#). The proposed TDSB template bylaws can be found [here](#).

Motion to adjourn - Motion to approve: Diana G.; Seconded: Abby D.; Carried.  
8.05pm

**2022-23 Remaining Meeting Dates**

Thursday, January 19, 2023  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
Wednesday, May 24, 2023